



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Providence VA Medical Center
830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908
Contact: Winfield S. Danielson III
401-457-3369
winfield.danielsoniii@va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 30, 2019

DoD Contract for Upper Limb Prostheses Comparison Study

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – A career research scientist with the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service's Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology at the Providence VA Medical Center was awarded a three-year contract by the Department of Defense Sept. 30 for a research study that will compare the effectiveness of different prostheses types.

"This study will be the largest, most comprehensive study comparing upper limb prostheses and components," said Dr. Linda J. Resnik, the principal investigator for the study, who is also a professor in the Department of Health Services, Policy and Practice at Brown University. "Providing prostheses that are optimally matched to the patient will improve satisfaction, reduce abandonment rates and improve overall quality of life for people with upper-limb amputations."

The nearly \$1.5 million contract, awarded by DOD's Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes Research Program to Ocean State Research Institute Inc., the nonprofit associated with the Providence VAMC, will provide evidence to guide prosthesis prescription by comparing effectiveness of upper limb prostheses and whether specific groups of patients are more likely to benefit from different device types. It builds on an existing study and will allow comparisons of outcomes for approximately 300 upper limb prosthesis users.

A cross-agency collaboration, the study includes collaborators at Brown University, co-investigator Dr. Ethan Balk; University of South Florida, co-investigator Dr. M. Jason Highsmith; the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine Inc. at the Center for the Intrepid at Brooke Army Medical Center, principal investigator Dr. Jill Cancio; the Foundation for Advancing Veterans' Health Research at the Audie L. Murphy VA Medical Center, principal investigator Gordon Bosker; the Tampa VA Research and Education Foundation at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center, principal investigator Dr. Sam Phillips; McGuire Research Institute at Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center, principal investigator Dr. Joseph Webster; and the Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research at VA Puget Sound Health Care System, principal investigator Dr. Jeffrey Heckman.

- more -

Prostheses Comparison Study, 2 of 2



Dr. Linda J. Resnik, center right, career research scientist with the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service's Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology at the Providence VA Medical Center, with team members, from left to right, Matthew Borgia, Rachel Underwood, Josephine Airoidi, Eileen Small and Sarah Biester, at the Providence VAMC Sept. 24, 2019. Resnik was awarded a three-year, \$1.5 million contract by the Department of Defense for a research study that will compare the effectiveness of different prostheses types. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson)